

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01 NEAE-00

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P R 111320Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5379

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1159

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, IZ, IR

SUBJ: IRAQI-IRANIAN BORDER CLASHES

REF: BAGHDAD 80

1. PRESS, FEBRUARY 11, INSIDED LOW KEY STORY THAT IRAQI AGRESSORS ARMED WITH HEAVY WEAPONS AND BACKED BY FIGHTER PLANE ALLEGEDLY TRIED DESTROY KONHAMKAN DAM ON FRONTIER SOUTHWEST OF KERMANS SHAH. GENDARMARIE HAS CONFIRMED THAT FIGHTING BROKE OUT ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 10 FOLLOWING AN IRAQI TROOP BUILD-UP IN THE AREA AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN BETWEEN 30 AND 40 IRANIAN CASUALTIES (BORDER GUARDS AND LOCAL MILITIA). THE FIGHTING AS OF MORNING OF FEBRUARY 11 WAS STILL GOING ON AND IRANIAN GROUND FORCES HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO BACK UP THE GENDARMARIE BORDER TROOPS. THE GENERAL FROM WHOM
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THIS INFORMATION OBTAINED CHARACTERIZED AS "PURE FICTION"

REPORTS THAT AN IRAQI AIRCRAFT HAD ATTACKED LEN IRANIAN DAM.

2. SAME SOURCE REPORTED THAT ON FEBRUARY 4 A CLASH HAD OCCURRED BETWEEN IRAQI AND IRANIAN BORDER GUARDS AT A FRONTIER LOCATION SOUTHWEST OF KERMANSHAH. CLASH OCCURRED WHEN AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF IRAQI SOLDIERS OPENED SMALL ARMS FIRE ON AN IRANIAN CIVILIAN ROAD-BUILDING CREW IN THE VICINITY OF KANISAKHT NEAR KERMANSHAH. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES AMONG THE IRANIANS, HOWEVER, THE IIG ESTIMATES THAT BETWEEN 15 AND 20 IRAQI SOLDIERS WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED. THE PRESS, FEBRUARY 6, CARRIED A SMALL ITEM REPORTING THAT THE IRANIAN BORDER GUARDS DISPERSED ARMED IRAQI ELEMENTS WHO ENGAGED THEM IN "BATTLE" ON FEBRUARY 4.

3. COMMENT: RECENTLY IRAQ-IRAN BORDER CLASHES (WHEN REPORTED) HAVE BEEN PLAYED IN LOW KEY BY THE PRESS. APPARENTLY WITH THE ARRIVAL OF IRAQI AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE JUMA, THE GOI PRESENTLY DESIRED TO HOLD DOWN PRESS PLAY BORDER CLASHES IN ORDER MAINTAIN AURA OF IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
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Message Attributes

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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